ACC COMMENTS ON HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING TO ADDRESS PERSISTENT, BIOACCUMULATIVE AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES

ARLINGTON, VA (March 04, 2010) – The American Chemistry Council (ACC) and its members have long supported processes where persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) substances receive priority attention in risk characterization, risk management, and pollution prevention programs.

ACC and its member companies have committed to a goal of minimizing potential human health and environmental risks that may be associated with PBTs. Through Responsible Care® and similar initiatives, ACC members have worked to make health and safety information on chemicals publicly available. Although not specific to substances with PBT characteristics, to date over 1,000 summaries with relevant health and safety information have been produced by ACC member companies, and are publicly available through ACC’s website.

ACC believes that now is the time to revise the 30-year old law that regulates chemicals in commerce. The chemical industry supports a modernized chemical management system that will restore public confidence in the kind of information EPA receives and how it regulates and tests chemicals – including PBTs. It is important, however, that any modifications to TSCA take into account the significant advances in PBT regulation already achieved under both domestic and international law. Modifications to TSCA must also reflect the most up-to-date scientific thinking about how to evaluate PBTs.

ACC and its members look forward to working with the Subcommittee members as discussions around PBTs and modifications to TSCA continue.

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The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people’s lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care®, common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a $689 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation’s economy. It is one of the nation’s largest exporters, accounting for ten cents out of every dollar in U.S. exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation’s critical infrastructure.